

congregation, and the special music was sung by Fathers Outtrim, Venning, and Giniesty.

First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's, Aramoho on Sunday last, 20 children—girls and boys assorted—being communicants. The children sang special hymns, had a splendid sermon from Father Outtrim, and after last Mass adjourned to the schoolroom for a special breakfast, prepared and served by the good ladies of Aramoho.

Rev. Fathers McCarthy, O'Leary, and Vincent, Marist Missioners, are here and the mission has started. Castlecliff comes first on the list, Father McCarthy being down there attending to the wants of that district and giving them their first mission. Fathers Vincent and O'Leary are busy with the children's mission at St. Mary's, this having opened yesterday, and will go on till Sunday afternoon. On Sunday, the grown-ups in town will start their mission, the exercises to last a fortnight, and next week Aramoho will have a little week all to itself. This good arrangement will keep the different congregations busy about their own business, and no one will be overlooked or crowded out.

Lots of new things will be a-building in the near future at Jerusalem-on-River. Travellers tell of the timber and such like that is being shipped up there, but I am not quite sure just what is going to be done, except that the alterations and extensions have connection with the church and school. Rev. Father Buckley is up river just now, and has been acting parish priest at Jerusalem for a few days.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

October 2.

The president of the Social Study Club (Rev. Father Hurley) entertained the members on 25th ult. to an illustrated lecture on some of the ancient Cathedrals of England. Quite a number of beautiful pictures were shown especially depicting the Norman and Gothic style of architecture; the lecturer ably manipulating the splendid lantern. Father Hurley was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks by his appreciative audience.

The revue party visited St. Andrews the other week, and provided a good entertainment to a large and enthusiastic audience. The proceeds were in aid of the parish funds. Several generous parishioners provided cars for the conveyance of the visitors, who deeply appreciated their kindness.

The weekly meeting of the Catholic Club was held on the 27th ult., when Rev. Fathers Hurley and O'Ferrall, and a fair number of members were present. The programme for the evening was a lecture on the "Westinghouse brake," by Mr. J. P. Leigh (secretary of the club). The lecturer, who is a first-class locomotive driver, ably dealt with the subject, and after answering some questions of a technical nature in a satisfactory manner, was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

The anniversary of the opening of the Sacred Heart Church occurred yesterday (Rosary Sunday). A very large number approached the Holy Table at the early Masses. Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., celebrated the late Mass, and the choir rendered Van Bree's music in a very creditable manner, under the baton of Mr. T. J. O'Connor, with Mrs. Mangos at the organ. The high altar and sanctuary were very tastefully decorated.

The annual Eucharistic procession was held in the convent and church grounds on Sunday afternoon. The religious pageant was most impressive, and the route of the procession was tastefully marked out by roped garlands of flowers, banners, and religious emblems. The members of the various parochial sodalities and societies, and also the children from the convent and parish schools, marched in their regalia, and the sight was a memorable one. A number of bandsmen, under Mr. K. Mara, played special music, and appropriate hymns were sung during the procession. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was first given at a well-appointed altar at the main entrance to the convent, then at an altar in the girls' school-ground, and finally in the church. It is estimated that fully 2000 persons took part in the ceremonies. Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., preached in the presence of a crowded congregation. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart Convent were heartily congratulated on the success of their arrangements.

A "gift evening" in aid of the art stall in connection with St. Anne's Guild sale of work, was held last Tuesday at the residence of Mrs. T. P. Crowe, under the direction of Mesdames J. G. Venning, O'Rourke, and Misses Blackmore. Many useful and artistic articles were donated to the stall. The sale of work will open at 2.30 on Saturday, and continue throughout the evening, when there will be a short musical programme. As there is no charge for admission and all the proceeds go to charity it is to be hoped there will be a liberal response.

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Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

October 2.

The 24th annual general meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Club was held last Wednesday evening, the president (Mr. L. T. J. Ryan) presiding over a large attendance of members. The report and balance sheet showed the

club to be in a sound financial position, the assets exceeding the liabilities to the value of £58. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was keenly contested, that for president being between four candidates. All the positions, except that of secretary, had to be decided by ballot. The present secretary was elected unopposed for the third year in succession. With Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell as patron, the new executive consists of—President, Mr. L. T. J. Ryan (re-elected); vice-president, Mr. H. Lennon; treasurer, Mr. Jas. McCormick; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Lennon (re-elected); librarian, Mr. E. Brophy; committee—Messrs. T. M. Brophy, Val Cullen, David Fitzgerald, W. Bryant, and J. Kelleher; auditors, Messrs. E. J. O'Brien and E. McSherry. Should the interest displayed by members at the meeting continue, the coming year can be looked forward to with pleasure by the members of the club.

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Rangiora

The fortnightly euchre party and social in connection with the parish was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Rangiora, on last Friday evening (writes a correspondent). The popularity of these socials was again evident, about 170 persons being present. The euchre prizes—100lb bag of flour and 70lb bag of sugar—were won by Mrs. F. Devlin and Mr. M. Fahey respectively; consolation prizes being awarded to Miss E. Hawley and Mr. S. Coates. Supper was served and the evening's programme interspersed with musical items.

Chesterton a Convert

For quite a number of years now at more or less regular intervals the well-known writer, Mr. Gilbert K. Chesterton, has been credited with having entered the Catholic Church. The latest report to this effect seems to be true, and it is stated on the most reliable authority that this distinguished man of letters was received into the Church a few days ago by Father John O'Connor. There are only two Fathers John of that name in the country, and on the ground of geographical proximity it seems as if Mr. Chesterton made his profession of faith at the hands of the one at Canton Street, Poplar.—*Catholic News Service*, August 19.

A Welsh Lourdes

The little Welsh town of Holywell, until recently part of the patrimony of the ancient Catholic family of the Mostyns, which for more than a thousand years has been famed for its Holy Well of St. Winefride, is rapidly on the way to becoming another Lourdes (says *Catholic News Service*, London, for August 19).

From earliest times regular pilgrimages have taken place to the Holy Well, which is supposed to mark the spot where the Virgin Saint suffered decapitation at the hands of a rebuffed admirer. Even during the centuries since the Reformation the pilgrimages have continued, almost without break. But the record has been beaten these early days of August. To the number of several thousands pilgrims from all parts of England and Wales have been arriving daily. From a single parish in Liverpool four thousand pilgrims visited the shrine in one day.

A number of marvellous and inexplicable cures have taken place at St. Winefride's Well! nor are they Catholics alone who frequent this holy place. Numbers of devout Protestants visit the well in good faith, and many of them depart with their bodily sufferings alleviated. From the point of view of scientific investigation the miracles of Holywell are inexplicable. The volume of water that rushes up in thousands of gallons daily in the piscina gives no evidence of medicinal or chemical properties on analysis, and on the therapeutic basis the cures at Holywell are an absolute puzzle to the scientific sceptic.

There is a church at Holywell which is in the charge of the Jesuit Fathers, and during the summer months devotions are conducted daily at the well. A number of discarded crutches and ex-voto offerings lining the walls testify to the numerous cures that have been effected there by what can be described only as Divine interposition. There is a special Papal privilege of a daily plenary indulgence attached to the church at Holywell, which is under the patronage of St. Winefride.

Rev. Father Westropp's Indian Missions

Rev. Father Westropp (per Bert. Gallien, North-east Valley) begs to acknowledge parcels of stamps, etc., from the following:—Miss M. M., Cargill Street; C. B. S.; Mr. F. Maloney; Miss Hartnett; Miss M. Thornton, Waimatuku; J. S., Masterton; Miss C. Brosnahan, Ashburton; J. K., Greymouth; Convent, Greymouth; J. P., Invercargill; Miss M. Ryan, Tai Tapu; Mrs. T. Duffey, Patea; P. O'Brien, Christchurch; Mrs. W. O'Shaughnessy, Canterbury; T. Hannaghan, Dunedin; —, To Puna; F. Allen.

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North-east Valley, Dunedin,

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